

ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT APPROVAL

Karen Butterfield

STATE BOARD MEETING DATE September 24, 2012

SUBJECT: Adoption of the National Evaluation Systems (NES) Subject Knowledge Exams

SUBMITTED BY: Todd Petersen, Deputy Associate Superintendent, Educator Excellence Section

MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW: September 6, 2012

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

As required by ARS§15-533(A), teachers must pass proficiency examinations to qualify for certification. The AEPA (Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment) exams need to be aligned to reflect the newly adopted Arizona Standards.

Rather than revising several exams, we recommend using National Evaluation Systems (NES) Subject Knowledge Exams. These exams, which are developed by our testing vendor, are aligned to the national InTASC and Common Core standards; therefore, they also align to Arizona's Professional Teaching and K-12 standards. Additionally, these are the advantages to using the National Evaluation Systems (NES) Subject Knowledge Exams:

- **Computer-Based Test Sites.** This allows applicants to have year-round testing dates by appointment at Pearson VUE Test Centers. Currently there are 13 of these centers in Arizona with additional sites forthcoming, seven centers in our border states, over 200 nationwide, plus selected sites worldwide.
- **Fees:** Computer-Based Subject tests are offered at \$95 per test compared to the current paper based test at \$115 per test.
- **Practice Tests:** The NES Practice Tests provide full-length on-line practice tests; comprehensive feedback on the test-taker performance; interactive diagnostic score reporting; and sample test questions with rationales.
- **Electronic Score Reports:** The applicant will be able to access, download and print the score report at no charge. Score reports will be securely posted for 45 days.
- **Pearson VUE Test Centers:** Applicants can take a virtual tour of the Pearson VUE testing center to get a sense of the environment in which the test will be taken.
- **Results Analyzer:** Higher education will have direct access to candidate test result data.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: ☒ INFORMATION ☐ ACTION/DESCRIBED
BELOW

ATTACHMENTS: YES ☒ NO ☐



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Features

Fields: Elementary Education, English Language Arts, History, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, School Library Media Specialist, Art, Music, Health, Business Education, Special Education, Middle Grades Mathematics, Middle Grades English Language Arts, Middle Grades General Science, Middle Grades Social Science, World Language tests: Spanish, French, German, Chinese (Mandarin); Essential Academic Skills tests: Reading, Writing, Mathematics	
FEES	
Test fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elementary Education: \$50 for one subtest, \$95 for both subtests• Essential Academic Skills (Reading, Writing, Mathematics): \$50 for one subtest, \$75 for two subtests, \$100 for three subtests• All other tests: \$95
CBT fee	N/A
Registration fee	N/A
COMPUTER-BASED TEST SITES	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12 Arizona CBT Sites: Arizona Western College (Yuma), Cochise College (Sierra Vista), Coconino Community College (Flagstaff), Mohave Community College (Bullhead City, Kingman, and Lake Havasu City), Northern Arizona University (Flagstaff), Pearson Professional Centers (Chandler, Phoenix, and Tucson), University of Arizona – South (Sierra Vista), Yavapai College (Prescott)• Over 220 sites nationwide, plus selected sites worldwide and at U.S. military bases (for eligible military personnel)
TEST DATES	
Computer-based tests	Year round, by appointment
TEST FORMAT	
Number of multiple-choice items	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elementary Education: 75 per subtest• Essential Academic Skills (Reading and Mathematics): 45 per subtest• Essential Academic Skills (Writing): 36• World Language Tests: 100• All other tests: 150
Number of performance assignments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Essential Academic Skills (Writing): 1 written assignment• World Language Tests: 2 (1 writing assignment, 1 speaking assignment)• All other tests: none



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Testing time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elementary Education: 1 hour, 30 minutes per subtest• Essential Academic Skills (Reading and Mathematics): 1 hour• Essential Academic Skills (Writing): 1 hour, 15 minutes• Chemistry, Mathematics, Middle Grades Mathematics, and Physics: 3 hours, 45 minutes• All other tests: 3 hours
SCORE REPORTING	
Passing score	National benchmark with optional state-level benchmark
Timeline for release of scores	Within 2 to 4 weeks of testing
PREPARATION MATERIALS	
No-fee online study guide (available online and as printable PDF)	NES Profile
Framework/objectives	In NES Profile
Sample items	In NES Profile
Interactive online practice test	\$17.50–\$29.95 (available for most tests)

Current AEPA		Proposed NES Test Adoption
Elementary Education		Elementary Education (Subtests I & II)
Special Education: Cross-Category		Special Education
English		English Language Arts
Middle Grades Mathematics		Middle Grades Mathematics
Mathematics		Mathematics
History		History
Biology		Biology
Middle Grades Language Arts/Reading		Middle Grades English Language Arts
Middle Grades General Science		Middle Grades General Science
Middle Grades Social Studies		Middle Grades Social Science
Spanish		Spanish
Music		Music
Art		Art
Chemistry		Chemistry
Physics		Physics
Library/Educational Media		School Library Media Specialist
Health		Health
Business		Business Education
French		French
German		German
Basic Skills: Reading		Essential Academic Skills Subtest I: Reading
Basic Skills: Writing		Essential Academic Skills Subtest II: Writing
Basic Skills: Mathematics		Essential Academic Skills Subtest III: Mathematics